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CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for magnetic therapy applicable to a patient including:

5 magnet retaining means for retaining a magnet in a fixed disposition with respect to the magnet retaining means;

a garment having fixed thereto one or more of said magnet retaining means at a location on or in the garment which corresponds to a predetermined position with respect to the body of the patient, and

10 the garment having incorporated therewith or operatively associated therewith locating means for accurately locating the garment, and thereby, the magnet, with respect to the body of the patient.

15 2. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the magnet retaining means includes two pockets in spaced relationship to one another, and the material and construction of the retaining means is selected to substantially prevent the two magnets when retained in the respective pockets from coming together by virtue of their 20 inherent mutually attractive force.

3. Apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the pockets are formed as a pocket pair from pliant plastics material, the pocket pair including a planar portion having formed therewith in spaced 25 relationship closeable pockets each sized to receive a magnetic disc of substantially the same size and shape.

4. Apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the pockets are formed as a pocket pair from pliant plastics material, the pocket 30 pair including a planar portion arranged to receive for bonding thereto respective capping portions for encapsulating respective

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magnets between one face of the planar portion and the interior of the capping portions.

5. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the magnets are formed to have two opposed faces spaced from one another by a distance relatively shorter than distance across the faces, and are arranged with their respective magnetic poles aligned to pass through or from one face to the other.

6. Apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the magnets are disc-like in form, with a north pole aligned substantially with the centre of one face of the disc, and a south pole aligned substantially with the centre of the other face of the disc.

7. Apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the magnets are arranged in retaining having pockets according to Claim 4, wherein the pockets are arranged to align the discs substantially about a common plane with respect to one another.

8. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the or each magnet is arranged such that, in use, the or each magnetic pole is aligned normal to the body surface of the patient.

9. Apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the north pole or poles of the or each magnet is arranged to be the closer one to the body of the patient.

10. Apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein one magnet is arranged for placement against the perineal region of the patient's body with its north pole towards the patient's body and the other magnet is arranged for placement against the perineal region of the patient's body with its south pole towards the patient's body.

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11. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the garment is in the form of a pair of pants or underpants, and wherein the garment locating means be formed as a locator band which in use girds the waist of the patient, the location of the locator band with respect to the pants or remainder thereof being such that 5 the fabric of the pants be held substantially unfolded and uncrumpled.

12. Magnet retaining means for retaining magnets, the retaining means including:

10 a planar portion;

closeable pockets formed with the planar portion in spaced relationship to each other, each pocket being of substantially the same shaped and sized to receive one or more magnets; and

15 wherein each pockets and planar portion co-operate for engagement with at least part of the magnet or magnets to retain the magnet or magnets in fixed relationship in each pocket.

13. Magnet retaining means for retaining a pair of magnets, the retaining means including a planar portion arranged to receive 20 for bonding thereto respective capping portions which encapsulate the respective magnets between one face of the planar portion and the interior of the capping portions.

14. Magnet retaining means according to Claim 12 or Claim 13, 25 wherein the magnet retaining means is formed from a material having a limited flexibility, being formed into pocket engageable with at least part of a magnet to retain the magnet in fixed relationship in the pocket.

30 15. A method of magnetic therapy for magnetic therapy patients including:

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locating one or more magnets in operative disposition with respect to one or more acupoints of the patients body;

holding the one or more magnets in said operative disposition by magnet retaining means which retain said one or more magnets in substantially fixed relationship with respect to 5 said one or more magnet retaining means;

fixing said one or more magnet retaining means to a garment worn by the patient; and

locating the garment on the patient by garment locating means incorporated with or operatively associated with said 10 garment.

16. A magnetic therapy garment for treatment of a medical condition of a patient, the garment including:

a textile portion;

15 one or more magnets held by a mounting member or members for coupling the or each magnet to said textile portion at one or more predetermined locations corresponding to the location of acupoints on the body of the patient when the garment is worn by the patient.

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17. Apparatus for magnetic therapy applicable to a patient including:

magnet retaining means according to any one of Claims 12 to 14 for retaining one or more magnets in a fixed disposition with 25 respect to the magnet retaining means;

a garment having fixed thereto one or more of said magnet retaining means at a location on or in the garment which corresponds to a predetermined position with respect to the body of the patient, and

30 the garment having incorporated therewith or operatively associated therewith locating means for accurately locating the

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garment, and thereby, the magnet, with respect to the body of the patient.

18. Apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the pockets are formed as a pocket pairs and are fixed to the garment such that, 5 in use, the magnets are located in such pairs substantially transverse the bisecting plane of the body of a patient.